Gas-based private sector power projects

*22. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any gas-based private sector power projects have been cleared during the last three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the share of gas-based power in the overall power generation at present in the private and public sector and the estimated share thereof at the end of the 8th Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) No gas based private sector project was accorded techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority during the last three months i·e·, from December, 1994 to February, 1995.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The total share of gas capacity as on 28.2.1995 in the private and public sector is 6.55 per cent of the total installed capacity of 79817.2 MW. The share of private sector is 0.4 per cent and balance 6.15 per cent is in public sector including central sector. With likely capacity addition of 20729.7 MW during 8th Plan, the total installed capacity of the country will be 89372 MW and the total share of gas capacity may be 7.21 per cent (6442 MW) comprising 0.65 per cent in private and 6.55 per cent in public sector.

Rise in Inflation

*23. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the concrete steps initiated by Government to check the inflation that has risen from 6 per cent to nearly 11.5 per cent;

(b) the reasons for the sudden rise in the rate of inflation; and

(c) how far the policies of Government are responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) The annual rate of inflation on point-to-point basis, as measured by the wholesale price index, had fallen to 6.9 per cent by the first week of July 1993. It then rose to 12 per cent by April 1994 and declined to 8.4 per cent in October, 1994. Thereore, it has risen again to 11.5 per cent as on Feb. 18, 1995.

A number of steps of demand and supply management have been taken by the Government to contain the renewed inflationary pressures. A ceiling has been placed on the Central Government's borrowing from the RBI through the issue of ad-hoc Treasury Bills. Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) was raised from 14 to 15 per cent CRR was imposed on FCNR (Banks) and Non-Resident/Non-Repatriable Accounts. Interest rate on Non-Resident External Rupee accounts was reduced. The FCNR (A) Scheme was eliminated in a phased manner. RBI also conducted open market sales of Government securities to mop up the excess liquidity. In February 1995, the maximum interest rate on commercial Bank deposits was increased from 10 to 11 per cent. Open market sales of nearly 0.4 million tonnes of wheat and about 3 lakh tonnes of rice were conducted as part of the price stabilisation policy. As a result, the price of wheat remained stable throughout 1994-95. Sugar imports were placed on OGL at